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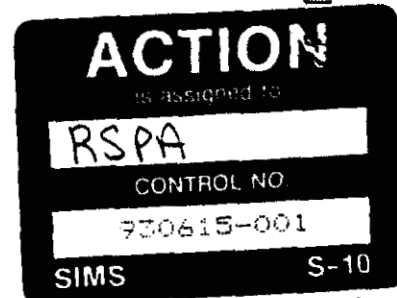
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2702

COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET

June 14, 1993



The Honorable Federico Pena
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Pena:

We are writing you to express our concern regarding the interim final rule recently issued pursuant to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) by the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) classifying vegetable oils and animal fats as hazardous materials (Docket No. HHS-214, Oil Spill Prevention and Response Plans.)

we recognize and appreciate the fact that RSPA granted a public hearing and extended the comment period on the rule to insure that this issue be thoroughly examined. However, we advise you that we believe that vegetable oils and animal fats are not hazardous materials and should not be regulated as such. Congress did not intend OPA-90 to be interpreted to classify edible oils as hazardous materials. They are non-toxic, readily biodegradable and pose no safety risk to humans or significant threat to the environment if spilled. In fact, the regulation of vegetable oils and animal fats as hazardous may be detrimental to some degree by creating confusion as to the "hazardous" classification and by imposing unnecessary compliance costs upon industry (and, ultimately, consumers) with no significant reduction in health risks to humans or improved protection of the environment.

OPA-90 was enacted to reduce the risks posed by spills of petroleum oil during their transport via land and water. We believe that this can be accomplished without classifying animal fats and vegetable oils as hazardous.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar

Christopher S. Bond

J. James Exon

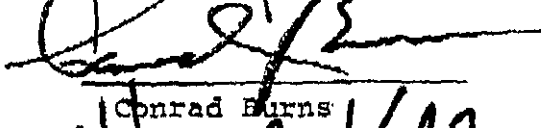
Chad Cochran

The Honorable Federico Pena
June 14, 1993
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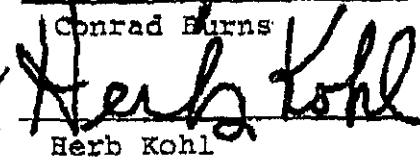

Charles E. Grassley

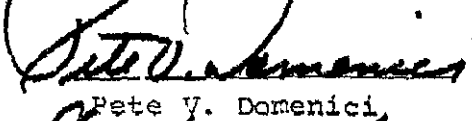

Dave Durenberger


Howell Heflin

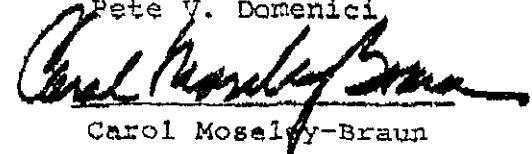

Conrad Burns

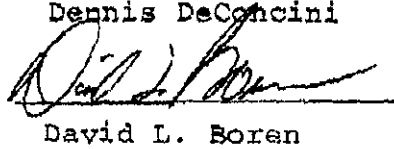

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Dennis DeConcini


Carol Mosley-Braun


David L. Boren

